

# ASSOCIATION INDUSTRY 4.0 AUSTRIA – THE PLATFORM FOR SMART PRODUCTION

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The Platform Industry 4.0 is a **membership-based non-profit association** founded in 2015.

## FOUNDING MEMBERS

- Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology  
In alphabetical order:
  - Association for the Electrical and Electronics Industries
  - Association of Metaltechnology Industries
  - Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour
  - Austrian Trade Union for Production Workers
  - Federation of Austrian Industries

## OBJECTIVES AND TASKS OF THE PLATFORM

The **core task** of the Platform Industry 4.0 is to **facilitate the implementation of Industry 4.0** and to **promote cooperation between relevant stakeholders**. Thus, a **highly innovative industrial production** is created, secured and the **quality of employment increased**.

Industry 4.0 is a challenge for society as a whole that can only be addressed in the best possible way through cooperation of all relevant stakeholders.

- We provide knowledge and services about Industry 4.0
- We accompany processes of change driven by digitization
- We jointly develop strategies for making the best use of Industry 4.0, for companies and employees
- We connect regional, national and international policy makers, industry, academia and employers' and employees' organizations
- We define fields of action and advise political decision-makers

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all organizations operating in the field of Industry 4.0.

These include companies, academic institutions, research institutions, employers' and employees' representatives, NGOs, and other leading institutions.

Contact us at [office@plattformindustrie40.at](mailto:office@plattformindustrie40.at) and benefit through our network!

# EXPERT GROUPS OF THE PLATFORM

About 600 experts are involved in the work on relevant and current Industry 4.0 topics.

The most important drivers of Industrie 4.0 are dealt with in nine defined topics, our expert groups. These are composed of high-ranking experts from their respective fields. The strength of the platform lies in the balanced mix of experts with scientific experience and extensive practical and operational experience.



# PUBLICATIONS

This is a selection of our publications (only available in German). These are created by active involvement of our network of experts. All publications and further information can be found at: [www.plattformindustrie40.at/services](http://www.plattformindustrie40.at/services)



## CYBER-SECURITY GUIDE FOR MANUFACTURING COMPANIES

On the basis of concrete examples, an overview of cyber security in the area of manufacturing is being provided. The guide points to the importance of awareness for cyber security for a manufacturing company with a focus on operational technology (OT).



## NORMS AND STANDARDS

The compass provides a compact overview of the available and currently drafted norms and standards affecting Industry 4.0. A comprehensive catalogue is available on our website.



## NEW WORK 4.0

Here you find a loose-leaf collection of continuously extended information and developments on relevant topics around change of work through digitization.

The content is developed in workshops by and with our experts and is published on an ongoing basis.



## RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION IN INDUSTRY 4.0

This paper outlines which research fields represent a particularly high potential for Austria and how to address companies' technological and financial needs even more accurately.



## SUCCESS FACTORS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL QUALIFICATION CLUSTERS

Regional qualification clusters connect all relevant stakeholders in a region to better meet increasing competence and qualification requirements and to improve training to be tailored to regional needs.

# MEMBER BENEFITS

Five good reasons to join the Platform Industry 4.0 – written by our members:

## NETWORK & EXCHANGE

The platform enables a **qualitative exchange of experience** across countries, industries and organizations on forward-looking topics. The excellent networking of **around 600 experts** from different disciplines results in promising opportunities for **cooperation**, sometimes with considerable time and labour savings.

## DRIVING FORCE & COMPETENCE

The cooperation and exchange in the **expert groups**, the participation in **workshops**, and the **sharing of expertise** contribute to gaining **new perspectives** and broadening your horizons. The work of the platform impresses with its **bundling of competencies**, which are **subject-oriented** and **interdisciplinary**. The **concretization of the topics** and the **neutral access** not only make possible to promote important topics of digitalization, but also to support the best possible interaction between technology and people.

## VISIBILITY

The Platform Industry 4.0 has created a **communications platform** in its four years of existence providing **high visibility** in the Austrian – but also international – industrial ecosystem. The **joint work in expert groups** and various cooperations result in a **high advertising effect for members**. The Competence Compass is a good purpose to **make competences visible**, also **outside the network**.

## CONSOLIDATION OF INTERESTS

The composition of the association and the diversity of the platform, consisting of employers' and employees' representatives, public research organisations, universities and universities of applied sciences, as well as leading Industry 4.0 companies enable an **extraordinary interdisciplinary approach**. The **openness in the discussion, respect** and **mutual trust** are unique and lead to a **results-oriented exchange**. The association succeeds as an „honest broker“ **acting neutrally** and **pursuing no interests**.

## VOICE

The platform is a **community of interests** that acts as a **voice for policy makers & administration** and other **scientific institutions** operating in a **trusting and professional manner**. An important role is also to bring **information from policy makers to members!**

## WHY BECOME A MEMBER?

HOW DOES THE  
FUTURE OF WORK  
LOOK LIKE?

HOW DO I KNOW  
WHICH TECHNOLOGICAL  
TRENDS I HAVE TO  
FOLLOW?

HOW DO I  
CHANGE MY  
BUSINESS MODEL  
SUSTAINABLY?

HOW AND WITH  
WHICH TOOLS DO I  
HAVE TO TRAIN MY  
EMPLOYEES?

HOW DO I  
MAKE SURE MY  
ORGANIZATION  
IS SECURE?

HOW HAVE  
OTHERS DEALT WITH  
THESE CHALLENGES?

### THE „HOW“ WE ANSWER TOGETHER!

Contact us without obligation under [office@plattformindustrie40.at](mailto:office@plattformindustrie40.at) and we discuss your options.

## CONTACT

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### ### Basic Information

- \*\*Country Name\*\*: Austria
- \*\*Policy Publication Year\*\*: 2023
- \*\*Socio-Economic Context\*\*: Austria is a high-income country with a well-developed industrial base, strong social welfare systems, and a high standard of living. The economy is characterized by a mix of services (particularly tourism), manufacturing, and technology sectors.
- Austria has a robust education system and a skilled labor force, which positions it well for advancements in technology and innovation, including Industry 4.0 initiatives.

- \*\*Policy Type\*\*: Industry 4.0 Strategy

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### ### 1. Key Objectives and Strategies in the Policy

#### \*\*Key Objectives\*\*:

- Facilitate the implementation of Industry 4.0 technologies in Austria.
- Promote cooperation among stakeholders (government, industry, academia, and labor organizations) to enhance innovation in industrial production.
- Improve the quality of employment through

digital transformation.

**\*\*Strategies\*\*:**

- **Knowledge and Services**: Provide resources and expertise related to Industry 4.0 to stakeholders.

- **Change Management**: Support organizations in navigating the changes brought by digitization.

- **Collaborative Strategy Development**: Jointly create strategies for leveraging Industry 4.0 for the benefit of companies and employees.

- **Networking**: Connect regional, national, and international policymakers, industries, and academic institutions to foster collaboration.

- **Field Action Definition**: Identify key areas for action and advise policymakers on effective strategies.

**\*\*Focus Sectors\*\*:**

- Manufacturing and production sectors, with emphasis on smart factories, logistics, and cybersecurity in industrial contexts.

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### 2. Comparative Analysis with

Socio-Economic Countries

#### Similar Socio-Economic Countries

(e.g., India, Bangladesh)

- **Objectives and Strategies**: Both Austria and India aim to leverage technology for economic growth and improved employment. However, Austria's strategy emphasizes collaboration among established stakeholders, while India focuses more on grassroots initiatives and capacity building in underserved communities.

- **Priorities and Funding**: Austria benefits from a stable economic base allowing for significant investments in Industry 4.0, whereas India often relies on international partnerships and funding for technology adoption.

- **Implementation**: Austria's structured approach contrasts with India's more decentralized efforts, which can lead to varied results across states.

#### #### Higher-Income Countries (e.g., United States)

- **Objectives and Strategies**: The U.S. has a broader focus on innovation across sectors with significant funding for R&D, while Austria's policy is more focused on specific industrial applications.

- **Funding Mechanisms**: The U.S.

allocates substantial federal and private funding for AI and technology initiatives, whereas Austria relies on collaborative funding from diverse stakeholders.

- **Implementation Approaches**: The U.S. employs a more aggressive approach to innovation and commercialization, which can serve as a model for Austria to enhance its competitiveness.

#### #### Lower-Income Countries (e.g., Vietnam)

- **Objectives and Strategies**: Vietnam's strategies often emphasize building basic digital infrastructure and skills, while Austria focuses on advanced industrial applications. Both countries recognize the importance of international cooperation.

- **Priorities and Funding**: Vietnam may prioritize immediate economic needs and capacity building, while Austria's focus is on enhancing existing industrial capabilities.

- **Approaches**: Vietnam's resource-efficient strategies for AI adoption could inform Austria's efforts to ensure inclusivity and sustainability in its Industry 4.0 initiatives.

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### ### 3. Gaps and Areas of Improvement

- **Benchmarking Against OECD Guidelines**:

The policy could benefit from clearer ethical guidelines and frameworks for data privacy, transparency, and accountability, aligning more closely with OECD standards.

- **Incorporation of Comparative Insights**:

Austria should consider integrating more inclusive strategies that address the needs of marginalized communities, as seen in lower-income countries.

- **Ethical and Governance Frameworks**:

The policy lacks detailed mechanisms for addressing ethical concerns, such as bias in AI systems and data protection, which are critical for fostering public trust.

- **Inclusivity and Workforce Development**:

The strategy should emphasize upskilling and reskilling initiatives for workers affected by digital transformation, ensuring that all demographics benefit from Industry 4.0 advancements.

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### ### 4. Recommendations for Policy Improvement

- **Adopting Best Practices**:

should explore successful strategies from countries like the U.S. for funding mechanisms and from Vietnam for scalable solutions to enhance its Industry 4.0 strategy.

- **Enhancing Ethical Frameworks**:

Strengthen ethical guidelines and data privacy measures, drawing from advanced implementations in countries like Germany and the Netherlands.

- **Fostering International Cooperation**:

Initiate partnerships with international organizations and countries to share knowledge and resources, particularly in areas like cybersecurity and AI ethics.

- **Resource Allocation and Funding Mechanisms**:

Optimize funding strategies by exploring public-private partnerships similar to those in higher-income countries, ensuring sustainable financial support for initiatives.

- **Scalable and Sustainable Approaches**:

Implement scalable solutions that are adaptable to regional needs, inspired by resource-efficient practices in lower-income countries.

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## ### 5. Strengths and Innovative Approaches

- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration**: The platforms emphasis on connecting diverse stakeholders promotes a holistic approach to Industry 4.0, fostering innovation through collaboration.

- **Expert Involvement**: Involving around 600 experts from various fields enhances the policy's credibility and effectiveness, ensuring that it addresses real-world challenges.

- **Focus on Cybersecurity**: The attention to cybersecurity in manufacturing is timely and necessary, providing a proactive approach to safeguarding digital transformations.

- **Regional Qualification Clusters**: These initiatives demonstrate a commitment to tailoring training and skills development to meet local needs, enhancing the relevance of workforce development efforts.

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This analysis outlines the potential for Austria's Industry 4.0 strategy to evolve by addressing identified gaps and leveraging comparative insights from various socio-economic contexts. By adopting best

practices and enhancing ethical frameworks,

Austria can strengthen its position as a

leader in smart production and digital

transformation.